

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION

STEFFON BARBER, an )  
individual, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
vs. ) Case No.  
 ) 5:22-cv-00625-KK-SHK  
  
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, )  
a municipal entity, and )  
DOES 1 THROUGH 10, )  
inclusive, )  
 )  
Defendant. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

REMOTE DEPOSITION OF  
STEFFON TODD BARBER  
APPEARING REMOTELY VIA ZOOM  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Reported by:  
F. ELOIS DUNCAN  
CSR NO. 4066  
Job No. 13309719

1 MS. ANDERSEN: You're muted.

9:06AM

2 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Our court reporter today is F.  
3 Elois Duncan representing the Sullivan Group of Court  
4 Reporters.

5 The court reporter will now swear in the  
6 witness.

9:06AM

7  
8 STEFFON TODD BARBER,  
9 the witness herein, having been first duly sworn, was  
10 examined and testified as follows:

9:07AM

11  
12 EXAMINATION

13 BY MS. ANDERSEN:

14 Q All right. Good morning, Mr. Barber. Can you  
15 hear me okay?

9:07AM

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q Thank you for your patience this morning. I  
18 still hear a lot of background noise, so let's do our  
19 best, all of us here, to speak slowly and maybe give a  
20 little bit more time after we are done speaking before the  
21 next person speaks, okay?

9:07AM

22 A Yes.

23 Q Great.

24 Have you ever had your deposition taken before?

25 A Not to my -- no.

9:07AM

1 with the colors of their uniform?

10:01AM

2 A Yes.

3 Q And what color top or shirt do they wear?

4 A Um, it's either tan or green.

5 Q And then they also have the green pants. Are  
6 you familiar with that?

10:01AM

7 A Yes, yes.

8 Q But you couldn't tell what this -- what Deputy  
9 Alfred was wearing when you had contact with him. It  
10 wasn't until later that you learned what he was wearing;  
11 is that correct?

10:01AM

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q Were there any lights on the front of the home  
14 that illuminated any part of the driveway?

15 A No, not until after. Not until after from what  
16 I hear.

10:02AM

17 Q Let me clarify that. Are you saying that the  
18 lights were turned on after your contact with him?

19 A The lights were installed after my arrest.

20 Q Okay.

10:02AM

21 So there were -- at the time of this incident  
22 you're not aware of any lights on the front of the house  
23 that illuminated the driveway in any way?

24 A No.

25 Q Okay.

10:02AM

1 A Yes, ma'am.

10:05AM

2 Q Okay.

3 Did you tell this individual to show you his  
4 hand?

5 A Yes.

10:05AM

6 Q Why did you tell an individual that you couldn't  
7 see to show you his hand?

8 A I don't recall. I couldn't see him.

9 Q Okay.

10 And it's your testimony that you didn't see a  
11 flashlight at all; correct?

10:05AM

12 A That's my testimony.

13 Q Okay.

14 Did you hear the deputy give you commands to not  
15 get into your vehicle?

10:06AM

16 A Yeah, I heard those commands, but I didn't know  
17 who it was.

18 Q Okay.

19 Have you ever been -- before this incident, had  
20 you ever been robbed?

10:06AM

21 A I mean, this is not something I want to talk  
22 about.

23 THE REPORTER: It's not something I want to talk  
24 about?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10:06AM

1 THE REPORTER: You talk and you move your head. 10:06AM

2 BY MS. ANDERSEN:

3 Q Okay.

4 Well, during any -- if you were ever robbed  
5 prior to this incident, did that individual tell you not  
6 to get into your vehicle? 10:06AM

7 A No.

8 Q How long is that driveway from, let's say the  
9 front of your house all the way to the street?

10 MR. DIGGS: Calls for speculation. 10:07AM

11 But you can answer.

12 THE WITNESS: Um -- I think the estimates that they  
13 made that day were around 40 feet. I'm not sure.

14 BY MS. ANDERSEN:

15 Q Other than the deputy telling you to not get  
16 into the vehicle, did you hear him say anything else to  
17 you before you got in the vehicle? 10:07AM

18 A No.

19 Q Prior to getting into your vehicle, did you hear  
20 the deputy say, "Don't reach into your vehicle"? 10:07AM

21 MR. DIGGS: Objection; that assumes facts not in  
22 evidence and it lacks foundation based on prior responses.

23 But you can answer.

24 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

25 And I intentionally reached in my vehicle to see 10:08AM

1 if he was talking to me, and nothing happened, so I

10:08AM

2 figured he wasn't talking to me. The voice was at a

3 distance. I do remember that.

4 BY MS. ANDERSEN:

5 Q Okay.

10:08AM

6 What were you reaching for when he told you not  
7 to reach?

8 A I think my cell phone was on my seat.

9 Q Okay.

10 What -- if you were trying to figure out who he  
11 was talking to, what do you recall him saying prior to him  
12 saying, "Don't reach into your vehicle," or words to that  
13 effect?

10:08AM

14 A I don't recall.

15 Q Did you hear him say anything to the effect of,  
16 "Hey, come talk to me," anything like that?

10:08AM

17 A No. I mean, I heard all that in trial, but as  
18 far as asking me, do I remember all that, I don't.

19 Q Okay.

20 When you reached into your vehicle, did you grab  
21 your cell phone?

10:09AM

22 A I believe I did --

23 Q Okay.

24 A -- I recall correctly.

25 Q And then after you grabbed your cell phone, did

10:09AM

1 you hear any other words from the deputy?

10:09AM

2 A No, I don't.

3 Q I guess other than don't -- don't reach in there  
4 or don't reach for that or words to that effect?

5 A Don't get in that f-ing car or something to  
6 that. I don't know.

10:09AM

7 Q Okay.

8 And then eventually you see it get into the  
9 driver's seat of the vehicle; is that correct (verbatim)?

10 A That is correct.

10:09AM

11 Q Okay.

12 Did you close the driver's door as well?

13 A That is correct.

14 Q And at the time you got into the driver's seat  
15 of the vehicle, was the trunk open?

10:09AM

16 A That hatch was open, yes.

17 Q Okay.

18 Do you know why it was open?

19 A I failed to close it.

20 Q Okay.

10:10AM

21 And then was the vehicle already on, like,  
22 turned on when you got into the driver's seat?

23 A It sure was. It was --

24 Q I'm sorry. Can you repeat the last part of what  
25 you just said.

10:10AM

1 A I said it sure was. It was idling.

10:10AM

2 Q Okay.

3 A Yes.

4 Q And then did you put it in reverse once you  
5 closed your door?

10:10AM

6 A I don't recall. I must have. I must have  
7 because the car rolled backwards --

8 Q Okay.

9 A -- once I was out of the car. But I don't  
10 recall putting it in reverse.

10:10AM

11 Q Okay.

12 So you say -- but you do recall the car moving  
13 backwards?

14 A Yes, from -- from -- from trial, that's what. I  
15 don't recall.

10:11AM

16 MR. DIGGS: Only --

17 THE WITNESS: The person, I don't recall.

18 (Simultaneously speaking, unreportable.)

19 BY MS. ANDERSEN:

20 Q Your counsel -- I think I know what he was going  
21 to say.

10:11AM

22 You can correct me if I'm wrong.

23 So I'm not looking for what you learned at trial  
24 or anything like that. I'm asking for your recollection,  
25 Mr. Barber. If you don't recall something, I don't really

10:11AM



1 want you guessing or telling me stuff you heard at trial 10:11AM  
2 that you didn't know at the time or didn't hear at the  
3 time. Does that make sense?

4 A I apologize.

5 Q That's okay. 10:11AM

6 Mr. Diggs, is that correct?

7 MR. DIGGS: That's correct. Thank you, Counsel.

8 MS. ANDERSEN: Of course. Thank you.

9 Madam Court Reporter, do you need him to repeat  
10 something? I'm sorry. 10:11AM

11 THE REPORTER: I don't think so. Thank you.

12 BY MS. ANDERSEN:

13 Q So is it your testimony that at the time you got  
14 into the driver's seat, you still had not seen this man in  
15 your driveway, Mr. Barber? 10:11AM

16 A No.

17 Q And you do not recall whether you put it in  
18 reverse or not; is that correct?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q But you do have a recollection of the car moving  
21 backwards; is that correct? 10:12AM

22 A Yes.

23 MR. DIGGS: Misstates the witness's testimony.

24 BY MS. ANDERSEN:

25 Q Was that yes? I'm sorry. 10:12AM

1 something about not reaching in the car, did you make any 10:16AM  
2 attempt to go back in your house? No?

3 It keeps cutting out. I just want to make sure  
4 it's clear. I'm sorry I'm asking you to repeat yourself.  
5 Did you say no? 10:16AM

6 A No, I don't recall.

7 Q It keeps cutting out. I'm just asking you to  
8 repeat yourself. Did you say no?

9 A No, I don't recall.

10 Q Okay. 10:16AM

11 After -- okay, let's go back to the vehicle  
12 rolling backwards. Do you know how far it rolled  
13 backwards from where it was parked originally when you got  
14 in?

15 A That car, it didn't hit the fence. It was right 10:17AM  
16 there. So at least a couple feet.

17 Q Okay.

18 And how many times were you hit?

19 A Once.

20 Q Okay. 10:17AM

21 And where were you hit?

22 A The back of the cranium.

23 Q Do you recall whether the vehicle was still  
24 rolling backwards when you were hit in the back of the  
25 head? 10:17AM

1 Do you attribute any, like, mental or emotional  
2 injuries to the events of the incident?

10:35AM

3 A Yeah, I am wheelchair-bound because of it.

4 Q Have you attended any therapy or counseling to  
5 discuss the incident?

10:35AM

6 A No. I think they offer that on the mainline.

7 But as far as the prison -- I think the office that's on  
8 the mainline, everything is very limited here, just where  
9 we come to get our points for custody, what security level  
10 we are, and as soon we are endorsed, we go to wherever  
11 we're going to be housed at for the duration of our time.  
12 We stop -- we get shipped out. It's not a permanent  
13 place. Right here the mainline has a lot more to offer  
14 from what I understand.

10:35AM

15 Q Okay.

10:36AM

16 So because you're relatively new to Wasco State  
17 Prison, you're in some type of temporary housing?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Okay.

20 Do you have a cellmate right now?

10:36AM

21 A No.

22 Q Okay.

23 Did you ever attend any type of therapy or  
24 counseling while you were at the West Valley Detention  
25 Center?

10:36AM

1 A No.

10:36AM

2 Q Have you taken any medication for any mental or  
3 emotional types of injuries?

4 A You are talking like mental health medication?

5 Q Yes. Anything like that since the incident?

10:37AM

6 A No. I refused all that.

7 Q Okay.

8 Have you ever spoken with Deputy Alfred from the  
9 sheriff's department at any time before or after the  
10 incident?

10:37AM

11 Was that a no? I think you cut out.

12 A No. No, ma'am.

13 Q Okay.

14 I actually think that's all the questions I  
15 have. Thank you, Mr. Barber.

10:37AM

16 A Sure.

17 MR. DIGGS: Let's take five minutes. I don't think  
18 I'm going to have any questions, Counsel. But I just want  
19 to make sure that I speak with co-counsel just in case.  
20 So we're going to take about a five-minute break.

10:38AM

21 MS. ANDERSEN: Sounds good.

22 MR. DIGGS: Okay.

23 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off the record. The time is  
24 10:38 a.m.

25 (Whereupon there was a pause in the proceedings.)

10:38AM

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES )

I, F. ELOIS DUNCAN, a Certified Shorthand Reporter  
of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That prior to being examined, the witness named in  
the foregoing deposition solemnly stated to testify to the  
truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth;

That the said deposition was taken down by me  
remotely in stenotype at the time and place therein stated  
and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction,  
and that the deposition transcript is a true and correct  
record of the proceedings here held.

I further certify that I am not counsel or attorney  
for any of the parties hereto or in any way interested in  
the event of this cause and that I am not related to any  
of the parties thereto.

Dated this 19th day of September, 2025.



F. ELOIS DUNCAN  
Certified Shorthand Reporter  
License No. 4066